(e) if so, the details of misplacing or the air-crash of AN-32 aeroplane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) The AN-32 flight No.K-2729 originated from Kiev and landed at Dubai. The aircraft took off from Dubai for Jamnagar on 25th March, 1986. The details of the crew of aircraft are as under :-

(1) Wg Cdr UM Bheemaiah (9011) F(P)

(2) Wg Cdr EA Fernandez (9751) F (P)

(3) Wg Cdr AL Narula (7852) AE(M)

(4) Flt Lt BP Sharma (16093) F (N)

(5) JWO KS Yadav (28864) Flt Sig

(6) Cpl RS Mishra (650555) Elect Fit

(7) Cpl KV Singh (636024) Rdo Fit

The aircraft could not be traced as it did not land at Jamnagar. The reasons for the loss of aircraft could not be established. The aircraft and crew were declared missing.

Sea Erosion in Kerala

1431. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that the coast of Kerala is subjected to severe sea erosion during monsoon seasons every year;

(b) whether a project for construction and maintenance of seawalls in Kerala has been pending with the Union Government for sanction, if so, when the same is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Kerala regarding anti sea erosion;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the sea shore of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Investigations, design, construction and maintenance of coastal erosion protection works is the responsibility of the State Government. Central Loan Assistance provided to Government of Kerala upto March 92 was of the order of Rs. 52 crore, towards implementation of anti sea erosion works. This assistance given since Fourth Five Year Plan, was discontinued beyond 91-92 as a process of decentralization as per decision taken by the National Development Council. Such assistance has enabled Government of Kerala to provide protection in the length of 324.61 Km of coastline, besides repairs in a length of about 50 Km.

During the year 1995-96, State Government had requested for an additional Central assistance of Rs. 5.98 crore out of which the Planning Commision had sanctioned Rs. 3 crore. During the year 1996-97, the state Government again requested for an additional Central assistance of Rs. 22.55 crore for anti sea erosion works, river protection and desilting works. But the State Government was requested to meet this requirement from Non Plan funds of the state, being essentially for maintenance purposes. Government of Kerala have also submitted proposals in 1996 costing Rs. 346.5 crore for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project under preparation in the Central Water Commission.

Ship Building Yards

1432. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the absense of any concrete policy on supporting the beleaguered ship building industry many of its yards are facing imminent closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any demand from that industry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details therof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Many countries the world over have been supporting the Shipbuilding industry with incentives such as subsidy, tax concessions, etc. In order to have level playing field, Indian shipbuilding industry requires support especially for construction of ocean-going ships.

(b) and (c) The shipbuilding industry has requested for extension of subsidy scheme which lapsed in September, 1995 and also to include subsidy for export orders. Their request has been processed and inter-Ministerial consultations are underway.

Haj Pilgrimage

1433. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase the Haj quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Saudi Arabia with a view to provide excellent facilities to Haj pilgrims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Under the present arrangements, worked out in consultation with the Saudi Government, about 100,000 pilgrims from India can perform Haj every year.

This meets the present requirement and, so there is no current proposal under consideration to increase this number.

(c) and (d) Government from time to time have taken up with Saudi Arabia to ensure the best possible facilities for Indian pilgrims, and have received requisite co-operation from Saudi Arabian authorities.

[Translation]

Flesh Trade

1434. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Deh Vyapar ki shikar Mahilaon ka adda ban gaya hai Bharat' appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated December 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the preventive measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representatives of the Asian Women Human Rights Council (AWHRC) and the supporting groups of the South Asian alliance against trafficking had met the SAARC Foreign Ministers who attended the 17th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in New Delhi on December 19-20, 1996, and made a representation on the issue of trafficking in women and children in South Asian countries. The SAARC Foreign Ministers noted the suggestions put forward by the AWHRC in its representation.

(c) The issue has been under collective consideration by SAARC, including *inter-alia*, in a appraisal conducted recently on Girl Children in Exceptionally Difficult Circumstances (GCEDC) in the region, which is to be submitted to the Ninth SAARC Summit. At the national level, action is being taken to notify suitable police officers as trafficking Police Officers under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. CBI is taking necessary action in identifying the gangs which are involved in the trafficking and sale of victims of sexual exploitation. State Governments are also intensifying raids so as to check trafficking of girls and women.

[English]

New Defence Production Units

1435. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a plan of action for modernisation/expansion/upgradation and setting up of new defence production units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with state-wise break up and major projects cleared for implementation, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of the projects formulated, but are under various stages of approval and implications thereof; and

(d) the details of progress achieved on ongoing major projects, project-wise with provision of funds made during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) To meet the emerging requiremens of Armed Forces, lines of production in defence production units are, in the normal course, updated through renewal and replacement of plant and machinery and introduction of improved technology. Since adequate facilities exist in the country, there are no plans presently to set up new production units.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) details are furnished in the statement attached.

Statement

The details of progress achieved in on-going major projects alongwith provision of funds made for them during the current year are as follows:

Ordnance Factories :

(a) New filling factory being set up at Badmal in Bolangir district for filling of high calibre ammunition. Project is likely to be commissioned by mid-1997. Funds allotted: Rs. 33.04 Cr.

(b) 5.56 mm ammunition project at Ammunition Factory Kirkee and Ordnance Factory Varangaon. Production already commenced. Funds allottted: Rs. 26.35 Cr.

Accident at Kandla Port

1436. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to recent accident at Kandla Port, three jetties have become inoperative;

(b) if so, the alternative arrangement being made or proposed to be made to overcome the resultant difficulties;

(c) if not, whether the Government have considered the proposal of IOC to build jetty on its own to facilitate the smooth working at the Kandla Port; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact two virtual jetties constructed by the Government Oil Companies became inoperative during October, 1996 due to an accident. The Government Oil Companies and the Port authorities have managed to recommission one of the virtual jetties recently while the other jetty would be recommissioned shortly. No difficulty was faced during this period regarding handling of the cargo.